United Nations A/C.5/53/SR.67

General Assembly
Fifty-third session

Official Records

Distr.: General
28 July 1999

Original: English

Fifth Committee

Summary record of the 67th meeting
Held at Headquarters, New York, on Tuesday, 20 July 1999 at 10 a.m.

Chairman: Mr. Abelian ..... (Armenia)
Chairman of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions: Mr. Mselle

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99-81238 (E)

The meeting was called to order at 10.10 a.m.

Agenda item 170: Financing of the United Nations Interim Administration Mission in Kosovo (A/53/238 and Add.1, A/53/1019 and A/C.5/53/Add.2)

1. **Mr. Halbwachs** (Controller), introducing the report of the Secretary-General on the financing of the United Nations Interim Administration Mission in Kosovo (UNMIK) contained in document A/53/238/Add.1, said that it was clear from the various reports of the Secretary-General and from Security Council resolution 1244 (1999) that UNMIK was a very complex operation which would require a significant level of resources. Of the $50 million which had been appropriated with the concurrence of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions (ACABQ), pursuant to the provisions of section IV, paragraph 2, of General Assembly resolution 49/233 A, some $25 million had been committed primarily for equipment and transport operations. The Secretary-General was now seeking from the Assembly authority to enter into commitments with assessment in an amount not exceeding $200 million, inclusive of the amount of $50 million which had already been authorized by ACABQ, to meet the most immediate requirements for carrying out the initial phase of the Mission's implementation plan.

2. A number of considerations had led the Secretary-General to approach the General Assembly with its request at the current stage, even though he would not be in a position to submit a full budget to the Assembly before late September or early October. UNMIK did not have a military component to enable the Secretary-General to defer payments. Moreover, resources which had been assessed and collected for ongoing missions could not be tapped for Kosovo without affecting those missions and rendering an already precarious financial situation even more acute.

3. While the amount requested for UNMIK was not based on a detailed set of requirements, the types of expenditures incurred in every peacekeeping mission included the cost of civilian police, international and local staff, premises and accommodations, transport and air operations, communications, equipment, supplies and miscellaneous services. The Secretariat had begun to prepare the cost estimates for those expenditures based on the comprehensive framework and the structure outlined in the Secretary-General's report.

4. While he had no doubt that the Committee would have preferred to have more information at its disposal, the nature of the Mission would not permit payments to be deferred. Moreover, the financial situation of the Organization made it imperative that resources for the Mission be sought now, pending the submission of a full budget.

5. **Mr. Mselle** (Chairman of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions) said that the Secretary-General's urgent request had been submitted under unusual circumstances. The operation in Kosovo would be large and complex and total expenditure was expected to be much greater than $200 million, which ACABQ regarded as an advance, pending the submission of a detailed budget for the Mission.

6. The amount of $200 million was a matter of prudent judgement, since it was not based on the normal budgetary rationale. The Committee might recall that under similar circumstances the General Assembly had authorized a commitment authority of $200 million for the United Nations Transitional Authority in Cambodia (UNTAC). Taking into account the effect of an alternative course of action, such as postponing action to a later date, ACABQ recommended that the Secretary-General should be granted the authority he had requested. ACABQ also invited the General Assembly to consider an assessment in the light of the factors set out in paragraph 9 of its report (A/53/1019).

7. **Mr. Sareva** (Finland), speaking on behalf of the European Union, the associated countries Bulgaria, Cyprus, the Czech Republic, Estonia, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Malta, Poland, Romania, Slovakia and Slovenia, and, in addition, Iceland and Norway, said that the European Union had played a full part in efforts to resolve the Kosovo crisis and was determined to bear its fair share of the overall burden of reconstruction in Kosovo. The European Union strongly supported the establishment of UNMIK, which was a huge operation with an unprecedented mandate. In essence, the Organization would have to take the lead in bringing back to life a society whose physical and social infrastructure had been destroyed and must therefore be given the necessary resources to do so. In that connection, however, the European Union wished to emphasize that the physical reconstruction and rebuilding of Kosovo fell by definition outside the scope of the Mission's budget. Financing for reconstruction would be raised through international donor conferences.

8. The European Union fully agreed with the observations and recommendations contained in the report of ACABQ. In order to fulfil its mandate properly and in a timely manner, UNMIK would need sufficient and sizeable cash resources from the very outset. The Secretary-General's request for authority to enter into commitments of up to $200 million should therefore be granted and the amount fully

assessed in accordance with Article 17 of the Charter and with the Financial Regulations and Rules. However, while it recognized the urgency of the matter, the European Union nevertheless attached great importance to the early presentation of a detailed budget with full disclosure, explanation and justification.

9. **Mr. Barnwell** (Guyana), speaking on behalf of the Group of 77 and China, underlined the collective responsibility of the United Nations and its Member States for the maintenance of international peace and security. The situation in Kosovo was a highly complicated one and it was therefore regrettable that the Secretary-General had not provided adequate information and justification to permit the Committee to make an informed decision. In its report, ACABQ also noted that the Secretary-General had not offered a rationale for the figure of $200 million. In that connection, the Group of 77 and China wished to stress the importance of adhering to the relevant rules and procedures for the financing of United Nations peacekeeping missions.

10. **Mr. Herrera** (Mexico) said that, while it would have preferred more detailed information on the proposals for the Mission, Mexico supported the establishment of UNMIK and endorsed the recommendation of ACABQ contained in paragraph 9 of its report (A/53/1019). The Mission's cost was the collective responsibility of Member States and further highlighted the need for assessed contributions to be paid in full, on time and without conditions. Despite its own financial constraints, Mexico had always paid its assessed contributions in full.

11. **Ms. Shearouse** (United States of America) said that the United States supported the Secretary-General's budget request and understood the need to have sufficient funding to cover the cost of start-up operations in Kosovo. The request supported Security Council resolution 1244 (1999), which laid out a specific plan for ending the humanitarian tragedy in Kosovo and building a better future for its people.

12. Her delegation understood that a detailed budget would be prepared and presented at a later date and looked forward to reviewing it at that time.

13. **Mr. Calovski** (The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia) said that he supported the statement made by the representative of Finland on behalf of the European Union and associated countries and hoped that the assessments for the Mission would be realistic. Based on his own information about the situation in Kosovo, it would not be surprising if the Secretary-General were to increase at a later stage the amount of commitment authority requested for the Mission.

14. **Mr. Takahara** (Japan) said that his delegation supported the Secretary-General's request for commitment authority of up to $200 million, since the timely deployment of the Mission depended on the availability of cash resources. He hoped, however, that a detailed rationale for the request would be presented at a later stage, having regard to the pressure which Governments faced from their constituents to ensure that international organizations made efficient use of the resources made available to them.

15. **Ms. Güray** (Turkey) said that her Government supported the establishment of UNMIK. Because of the Mission's size and complexity, it was necessary to grant the Secretary-General the authority he sought to enter into commitments with assessment to meet the most immediate requirements of the Mission.

16. **Mr. Dvinyanin** (Russian Federation) said that as a permanent member of the Security Council the Russian Federation was aware of its responsibility for the maintenance of international peace and security and of the need for an immediate international civil presence in Kosovo. It therefore supported the Secretary-General's request for authority to enter into commitments with assessment for carrying out the initial phase of the implementation plan of UNMIK, notwithstanding the unusual circumstances under which the request had been submitted. The Russian Federation took note of the recommendation contained in paragraph 9 of the report of ACABQ (A/53/1019) and looked forward to the actual budget proposal, which should be formulated with full disclosure, explanation and justification.

17. **Mr. Park Hae-yun** (Republic of Korea) said that his Government supported the establishment of UNMIK, which should be given the necessary resources to fulfil its mandate. It therefore also supported the Secretary-General's request for authority to enter into commitments with assessment to meet the preliminary operating costs of the Mission pending the presentation of a full budget to the Assembly.

18. **Ms. Achouri** (Tunisia) said that her delegation was aware of the constraints faced by the Secretary-General in providing a detailed justification for his request for commitment authority to fund the Mission's preliminary operating costs. The deployment of an international civil presence in Kosovo formed part of the Organization's mandate to promote the maintenance of international peace and security and she hoped that the Committee would be in a position to adopt a draft decision without delay to permit the timely deployment of the Mission.

19. **Mr. Amolo** (Kenya), joined by **Mr. Odaga-Jalomayo** (Uganda) and **Mr. Yusuf** (United Republic of Tanzania),

said that Kenya supported the establishment of UNMIK, which would contribute to the creation of a stable environment in which the people of Kosovo could reclaim their lives. It was aware of the constraints that prevented the Secretary-General from providing a detailed justification for the proposed budget and hoped that the actual budget would be formulated in October in the usual fashion with full disclosure, explanation and justification. He hoped further that the same spirit with which the Organization was moving to establish UNMIK would be in evidence when consideration was being given to the funding of ongoing and future missions in Africa.

20. **Ms. Buergo Rodriguez** (Cuba) said that the mandate of UNMIK was one of unprecedented complexity and it was therefore regrettable that the Secretary-General's request for its funding had not been substantiated with the analysis and information that were needed to permit the Committee to take a decision. Her delegation, for example, had a number of questions, including the amount currently held in the Peacekeeping Reserve Fund.

21. **Mr. Halbwachs** (Controller) said that the amount currently held in the Peacekeeping Reserve Fund was $97 million.

The meeting rose at 10.55 a.m.